THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKAR MURTHY): (a) The new economic policy includes positive changes in trade policy which aim to create an environment that will enable exports to increase at a rapid pace.

In fact, India's exports have increased by 20 per cent in dollar terms in 1993-94 and by more than 18 per cent in dollar terms in 1994-95.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Some of the significant measures initiated by Government to boost exports are:

— Enlargement of EPCG Scheme

— Expansion & liberalisation of advance licenses.

— Additional incentives for ECU units in EPZs.

— Expansion of SIL List.

— Pruning of negative list of imports

— Reconstitution of Board of Trade.

Seizure of Smuggled Gold and Silver at Sea Ports in Gujarat

95.

6012. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and the value of smuggled gold and silver seized at sea ports in Gujarat State during the year 1994-95 and till date;

(b) the number of persons arrested and the action taken against them; and

(c) the concrete measures adopted by Government to check the smuggling of gold and silver etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKAR] MURTHY): (a) No seizure of gold and silver has been affected at sea ports in the State of Gujarat during financial year 1994-95.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Field formations. are alert to detect and prevent smuggling including smuggling of gold and silver. Close coordination is being maintained amongst all agencies concerned with detection and prevention of smuggling.

Reduction in import duty on Aluminium

6013. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all household utensils, except pressure cookers, are exempt from the levy of excise duty;

(b) whether it is also a fact that pressure cookers which are energy efficient and an item of mass use is used atleast in 34 million households in the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the manufacturers of aluminium circle, main raw material in its manufacture have hiked its price by 40 per cent;

(d) whether it is also fact that it is not feasible to import aluminium circles as there is 40 per cent import duty therein;